

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Control: 10045
Hno'd: MAY 22, 1959
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FROM: GENEVA

Info

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: SECTO 103, MAY 22, 4 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT SECTO 103; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 133.

RMR

AT CLOSE OF MEETING COUVE, LLOYD AND VON BRENTANO WITH SECRETARY THIS MORNING, VON BRENTANO RAISED QUESTION OF SITE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN JULY, POINTING OUT THAT GERSTENMAIER WAS PUBLICLY ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF HOLDING THEM IN BERLIN. THREE MINISTERS ALL TOLD VON BRENTANO THAT PROVIDED NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER MADE TO CONSULTATION WITH THEM THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE WISER TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN BONN RATHER THAN IN BERLIN. VON BRENTANO APPEARED SHARE THIS VIEW AND GAVE ASSURANCE THAT CHANGE COULD AND WOULD BE JUSTIFIED EXCLUSIVELY ON GROUNDS OF PRACTICAL CONVENIENCE.

HERTER

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